

Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2014

Members in Attendance: Molly Flueckiger, Heidi Hample, Rachel Buonopane, Michael Rademacher, John Thompson, Kerrie Fallon, Maureen St. Hilaire, Susan James

Members Absent:

Others Present: Jack Jones/ADA Coordinator, Janice Dallas, Jeff Dougan(MOD)
Ellington Jackson (Herb Chambers), Danny Van Leevwen
(Arlington resident, Advocates)

Meeting began at 4:05 pm

1. Welcome and Introduction

2. Administrative Business

- Approval of Meeting Minutes 12/13/13- approved
- Meeting Time Questionnaire- 4pm on Wednesday appear to be the best time for now, will readdress at a future date
- Donate to Bicycle Camp- voted on donation to camp of \$250.00 = value of one scholarship. To request that this money go toward Arlington resident(s)
- Commission Vacancy- vacancy published in the Arlington Advocate

3. Guests- Jeff Dougan from the Massachusetts Office of Disability

- We are considered a 485 commission, formalized commission with the Town of Arlington
- We have not yet adopted 22G- collection of parking fines for Handicap Parking to the commission to then be used for people with disabilities in town
- Annual budget \$3500
- Jeff distributed pamphlets to the group on MOD, Disability rights/laws in Massachusetts, info on tax incentives, ADA guidelines for Title II and Title III and hand sanitizer
- MOD is available to support us and give us guidance in areas we are unsure of
- Jeff's contact info 617-727-7440, jeff.dougan@state.ma.us
- The Commission on Disability is an advisory board to the appointing authority (Board of Selectmen)
- Jeff asked how our commission communicates with Town officials...directly or through Jack (ADA Coordinator). Some communities have a formal policy about how commissions communicate with Town officials. Our Commission has not adopted a formal policy; in general, we communicate via ADA coordinator but also have the freedom to communicate with Town officials directly.

- *Will further discuss this and decide whether a formal policy should be drafted.*
- Disability Rights Laws discussed
- Commission members are voted in by Board of Selectmen
- Examples of goals issued to the group- as an example of goals we can establish
- Americans with Disabilities Act- requires 5 action steps for communities to be in compliance
 - Designate a Responsible Employee (ADA Coordinator- Jack)
 - Provide Notice of ADA Requirements
 - Establish a Grievance Procedure (complaints go to ADA coordinator currently)
 - Conduct a self-evaluation (identify barriers, where are programs located)
 - Develop a Transition Plan (*should be a living document*, updated annually or biannually) *Once we update the Transition Plan, we can then work to update regularly. Will need to determine who is responsible to update the document.*
- Roles of Commission on Disability vs ADA Coordinator
- Commission role is to be community voice- help deal with Title III issues. Can look to MOD for guidance with issues/complaints. Focus on Education first and then Enforcement.
- ADA coordinator focus on Title II issues- Town programs, activities and facilities
- Calls for ADA coordinator and Commission all come in through ADA coordinator
- Department of Justice is governing board that deals with Title III official complaints
- Massachusetts has a local office to call for assistance with discrimination issues
- Take home message- it is okay to call MOD for guidance
- Housing and program access complaints are handled fairly quickly
- AAB/ADA complaints can sometimes take 6-9 months to get resolved
- Discussion and questions about outdoor seating
- Issues and concerns can be directed to the Board of Selectmen as they issued the licenses for outdoor seating
- How do we advertise our role?
- Town website, flyers, Town Day (MOD willing to help out), campaign (pass out tax incentive), local cable access, town paper

Jeff is willing to come out again, possibly once every 6 months

4. ADA Coordinator's Report

- Resources provided to community member who is need of purchasing a new accessible van, Arlington Housing Authority has been assisting
- Molly and Jack met with Betsy Allen (Somerville ADA Coordinator)- discussed having regional meeting
- Annual Report was submitted to the Town today

5. Disability Commission Project List

- Things going on in town that would be good for us to be involved in
- ADA coordinator projects
- Projects that we may want to take on ourselves

6. Other Business

- Ellington Jackson from Herb Chambers talking about vehicle modifications and wanting to assist his clients
- Danny Van Leevwen from Advocates Inc. in Framingham, servicing over 25,000 people, interested in becoming a Commission member

Meeting adjourned 6:15pm

Next Meeting set February 19, 2014